NUMB. CLXXXV.

The SPECTATOR.

——Tantæne animis cœleſtibus iræ? Virg.

Tueſday, October 2. 1711.

THERE is nothing in which Men more deceive themſelves than in what the World calls Zeal. There are ſo many Paſſions which hide themſelves under it, and ſo many Miſchiefs ariſing from it, that ſome have gone ſo far as to ſay it would have been for the Benefit of Mankind if it had never been reckoned in the Catalogue of Virtues. It is certain where it is not Laudable and Prudential it is an hundred times Criminal and Erroneous, nor can it be otherwiſe if we conſider that it operates with equal Violence in all Religions, however oppoſite they may be to one another, and in all the Subdiviſions of each Religion in particular.

We are told by ſome of the *Jewiſh Rabbins*, that the firſt Murder was occaſioned by a Religious Controverſy; and if we had the whole Hiſtory of Zeal from the Days of *Cain* to our own Times, we ſhould find it filled with ſo many Scenes of Slaughter and Barbarity, as would make a wiſe Man very careful how he ſuffers himſelf to be actuated by ſuch a Principle, when it only regards Matters of Opinion and Speculation.

I would have every Zealous Man examine his Heart throughly, and, I believe, he will often find that what he calls a Zeal for his Religion is either Pride, Intereſt, or Ill-nature. The Man that differs from another in Opinion ſets himſelf above him in his own Judgment, and in ſeveral Particulars pretends to be the wiſer Perſon. This is a great Provocation to the Proud Man, and gives a very keen Edge to what he calls his Zeal. And that this is the Caſe very often, we may obſerve from the Behaviour of ſome of the moſt Zealous for Orthodoxy, who have often great Friendſhips and Intimacies with vitious Immoral Men, provided they will but agree with them in the ſame Scheme of Belief. The Reaſon is, Becauſe the vitious Believer gives the Precedency to the virtuous Man, and allows the good Chriſtian to be the worthier Perſon, at the ſame time that he cannot come up to his Practiſe. This we find exemplified in that trite Story which we ſee quoted in almoſt every Syſtem of Ethicks, tho' upon another Occaſion,

——Video meliora proboque
Deteriora ſequor—— Ov.

On the contrary, it is certain if our Zeal were true and genuine, we ſhould be much more angry with a Sinner than a Heretick, ſince there are ſeveral Caſes that may excuſe the latter before his great Judge, but none that can excuſe the former.

Intereſt is likewiſe a great Inflamer, and ſets a Man on Perſecution under the Colour of Zeal. For this Reaſon we find none are ſo forward to promote the true Worſhip by Fire and Sword, as thoſe who find their preſent account in it. But I ſhall extend the Word Intereſt to a larger Meaning than what is generally given it, as it relates to our Spiritual Safety and Welfare, as well as to our Temporal. A Man is glad to gain Numbers on his ſide, as they ſerve to ſtrengthen him in his private Opinions. Every Proſelyte is like a new Argument for the Eſtabliſhment of his Faith. It makes him believe that his Principles carry Conviction with them, and are the more likely to be true, when he finds they are conformable to the Reaſon of others, as well as to his own. And that this Temper of Mind deludes a Man very often into an Opinion of his Zeal, may appear from the common Behaviour of the Atheiſt, who maintains and ſpreads his Opinions with as much heat as thoſe who believe they do it only out of a Paſſion for God's Glory.

Ill-nature is another dreadful Imitator of Zeal. Many a good Man may have a Natural Rancour and Malice in his Heart, that has been in ſome meaſure quelled and ſubdued by Religion; but if it finds any Pretence of breaking out, which does not ſeem to him inconſiſtent with the Duties of a Chriſtian, it throws off all Reſtraint, and rages in its full Fury. Zeal is therefore a great Eaſe to a malicious Man, by making him believe he does God Service, whilſt he is gratifying the bent of a perverſe revengeful Temper. For this Reaſon we find that moſt of the Maſſacres and Deva[illegible]ations that have been in the World, have taken their Riſe from a furious pretended Zeal.

I love to ſee a Man zealous in a good matter, and eſpecially when his Zeal ſhows it ſelf for advancing Morality, and promoting the Happineſs of Mankind: But when I find the Inſtruments he works with are Racks and Gibbets, Gallies and Dungeons; when he Impriſons Mens Perſons, Confiſcates their Eſtates, Ruins their Families, and Burns the Body to ſave the Soul, I cannot ſtick to pronounce of ſuch a one, that (whatever he may think of his Faith and Religion) his Faith is vain, and his Religion unprofitable.

After having treated of theſe falſe Zealots in Religion, I cannot forbear mentioning a monſtrous Species of Men, who one would not think had any Exiſtence in Nature, were they not to be met with in ordinary Converſation, I mean the Zealots in Atheiſm. One would fancy that theſe Men, though they fall ſhort, in every other reſpect, of thoſe who make a Profeſſion of Religion, would at leaſt outſhine them in this Particular, and be exempt from that ſingle Fault which ſeems to grow out of the Imprudent

Imprudent Fervours of Religion; but so it is, that Infidelity is propagated with as much Fierceness and Contention, Wrath and Indignation, as if the Safety of Mankind depended upon it. There is something so ridiculous and perverse in this kind of Zealots, that one does not know how to set them out in their proper Colours. They are a sort of Gamesters that are eternally upon the Fret, though they play for nothing. They are perpetually teizing their Friends to come over to them, though at the same time they allow that neither of them shall get any thing by the Bargain. In short, the Zeal of spreading Atheism is, if possible, more absurd than Atheism it self.

Since I have mentioned this unaccountable Zeal which appears in Atheists and Infidels, I must further observe that they are likewise in a most particular manner possessed with the Spirit of Bigotry. They are wedded to Opinions full of Contradiction and Impossibility, and at the same time look upon the smallest Difficulty in an Article of Faith as a sufficient Reason for rejecting it. Notions that fall in with the common Reasons of Mankind, that are conformable to the Sense of all Ages, and all Nations, not to mention their tendency for promoting the happiness of Societies, or of particular Persons, are exploded as Errors and Prejudices, and Schemes erected in their stead that are altogether Monstrous and Irrational, and require the most extravagant Credulity to embrace them. I would fain ask one of these bigotted Infidels, supposing all the great Points of Atheism, as the casual or eternal Formation of the World, the Materiality of a thinking Substance, the Mortality of the Soul, the fortuitous Organization of the Body, the Motions and Gravitation of Matter, with the like Particulars, were laid together and formed in a kind of Creed, according to the Opinions of the most celebrated Atheists, I say, supposing such a Creed as this were formed and imposed upon any one People in the World, whether it would not require an infinitely greater measure of Faith than any Sett of Articles which they so violently oppose. Let me therefore advise this Generation of Wranglers, for their own and for the Publick good, to act at least so consistently with themselves, as not to burn with Zeal for Irreligion and Bigotry for Nonsense.

Errata in the Last.

At the End of the Motto read Hor. *At the End of the Paper for* T. *place* L.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of September, are to be sold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mrs. Bond at the Old Vine at Charing-Cross; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mrs. Treganey, near Essex-Street; Mrs. Boulter next the Rose Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Alley, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane; where also may be had those for the Months of March, April, May, June, July and August.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this present Tuesday being the 2d of October, will be presented a Play called The Unhappy Favorite, or the Earl of Essex. The Part of Earl of Mr. Wilks, Southampton Mr. Mills, Burleigh Mr. Keene, the Queen by Mrs. Knight, Countess of Rutland Mrs. Rogers, Countess of Nottingham Mrs. Porter.

At the Cross-Keys and Bible in Cornhil, against the Office a joining to the Crown Tavern in Knightrider-street, at the corner of Pearson three doors near Guildhall, and at the Office in the Passage into Westminster grave Hall-Court with the Temple bar, on the Left Hand, is kept the exact Numerical Book of the Million and half Lottery, by which all Persons may be satisfied at Sight, whether their Numbers be drawn Blanks or Prizes, and the Day on which they were drawn. Where is also kept a Numerical Register Book, in which any one may have their Tickets enter'd at 6d. per Ticket. And as soon as any of 'em are drawn, Notice shall be immediately sent to any part of the City by the very first Post into the Country of their Success. Printed by Andrew Bell, Printer to the Honourable Commissioners of the said Lottery, he having the Permission of the Commissioners to his Clerk to take the Numbers on the Hustings, by which he is capable of giving an exacter Account than any other. N. B. And the Conveniency of Gentlemen, Brokers, Coffee-houses, &c. the Book of every Day's Drawing will be printed Numerically. Also, At the two first Offices may be seen an exact Numerical Book of the Classes in the Two Million Lottery.

The Blanks and Prizes of the Million and half Lottery, Drawing at Guildhall, are to be seen every Quarter of an Hour at Jack's Coffee-house in Birchin-lane, Grigsby's in Threadneedle-street, the Turk's Head in Ironmonger-lane, the Crown in King-street, and Guildhall Coffee-house. They may also be seen every Hour at Will's and the Temple Coffee-houses in Fleet-street, Diggory's at the Royal Oyals, the Rainbow the Lower end of St. Martin's-lane, and at Hoover's and the British Coffee-houses near the lower end of the Hay Market.

The extraordinary Choice Collection (of Mr. Streeter, late Serjeant Painter) consisting of Models, Figures and Antick Heads in Plaister; as also Bronzes beneficial for the Study of Painters, Carvers and Statuaries, or adorning the Libraries of the Nobility and Learned, will be Sold by Auction on the 5th Instant, at in the Afternoon, at his late Dwelling House next Bolton-street in Piccadilly Park Road, and may be seen by all Lovers of Art this Day, Wednesday and Thursday. Conditions of Sale as usual. Note, A numerous Collection of fine Pictures, Italian Prints and Drawings will suddenly be ready for Sale, and shall be advertised.

Notice is hereby given, that in a Vault under The Devies Inn against Hatton Garden, in Holborn, are to be sold by Retail, new natural Oporto Wine Red and White, imported by the Ship Adriatick, at 16d. per Quart without Door, and 18d. within, at 16 l. per Hogshead: And Red Bene Carlos Barcelona Wine, New Deep, Bright, strong and perfect sound, at 12d. per Quart without Door, and 14d. within, and 12 l. per Hogshead. Note, The above said Sale of Wines will be continued till all shall be sold.

A House to be Lett in Denmark-street by St. Giles's Church, well fitted up, with or without a piece of Ground for Coach-house and Stables. Enquire at Mr. Hurrin's, a Corn-chandler at the end of the said Street, or of Mr. John Evans, Bricklayer, at the Rails in Queen-street by the Seven Dyals.

Wines to be sold by Retail.

On Thursday next the 4th Instant will be sold excellent Red and White Port, and Red and White Lisbon, being neat Wines as they come from the Grape, of the best Growth in Portugal. To be sold by the Importer in a Vault in Brabant Court in Philpot-Lane, viz. Red and White Port at 5 s. per Gallon, or 14 l. per Hhd. Red and White Lisbon at 5 s. 6 d. per Gallon, or 16 l. per Hhd. Attendance will be given every Day.

Just Publish'd, in 12mo.

A very neat Pocket Edition of Mr. Steele's two Comedies, viz. The Funeral, and The Tender Husband. Printed for J. Tonson and Sold by Owen Lloyd near the Church in the Temple.

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Maps of the World, Asia, and South America, engraved by J. Senex, which compleat a Set of 20 Maps, viz. the World, Quarters, and principal Divisions of Europe, each on two Sheets of Imperial Paper. Sold by J. Senex and J. Maxwell at the Globe in Salisbury-Court, Fleet-street, Mr. Mount on Tower-hill, Mr. Hyde behind the Royal Exchange, Mr. King in the Poultry, Mr. Lyon against Exeter Change in the Strand, and by Mr. Gosnell in St. James's-street.

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